

**DDS South Region
Regional Advisory and Planning Council
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2014**

Members Present: Chair Jean Brookman, Carol Cooney, Susan Gardner, Steve Harney, Lauralyn Lewis, Diane Martin and Thomas Dailey, DDS South Region Regional Director

Guests: Madeline Illinger, SPED Director Westbrook Public Schools; Rod Mosier, SPED Director Salem Public Schools; Dave Cassano, Carol Kehoe and Susan Slater

Call to Order: Chair Brookman called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Introductions: All made introductions.

Citizen Comment: Member Lewis inquired about a possible change in DDS' funding guidelines. Mr. Dailey advised that DDS continues to fund individuals based on their level of need (LON) and the number of people living in the home (if applicable). DDS has always used hourly rates as a basis for funding.

Approval of Minutes: Review ensued of the May 21, 2014, and June 18, 2014, meeting minutes. ***In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the minutes of the May and June 2014 meetings.***

Chairperson's Report:

- **Creative Housing Workgroup Update** - The Workgroup took the summer off, but is in the process of regrouping now. The Workgroup continues to generate ideas on creative housing and financing. Martin Legault, Corporation for Independent Living (CIL) outgoing President and CEO, presented at the last meeting. While some of the information shared was disheartening, the group is in a more realistic place. The group's ultimate goal is to present its ideas to the legislature and DDS for consideration. Meetings continue to be held on the second Thursday of every month at Acton library in Old Saybrook at 6:00 p.m. All are encouraged to attend an upcoming meeting. Pupil Services Directors are especially encouraged to attend as a means of keeping information flowing between schools, families, and providers.
- **Field Activities Update** - Member Lewis spoke about the Governor's meeting with families in June and the Governor's Waiting List Working Group. This Working Group meets every two weeks to discuss and address various issues with a focus on the Wait List. Working Group meetings are recorded and can be viewed on CT-N at www.ctn.state.ct.us.

Administrative Updates:

Regional Director Thomas Dailey provided updates on the following topics:

- Wait List Initiative
- Planning List
- Emergency Placements
- Budget

- Funding for employment and day supports, family grants and respite for grads.
- Average per year cost of a CLA
- LEA Outreach
- DDS Helplines
- Eligibility Process
- Changes to A/N Statutes and the DDS A/N Registry
- A/N Prevention Initiative - new curriculum
- Direct Care Hiring
- Family Grants
- Rate transition for day and res services.
- REM Closure

Old Business:

- **Member Attendance** - At the Council's request, the Regional Director's office will send a letter to Council Member Michelle Weaving to determine her interest in continued membership. Ms. Weaving has not attended a meeting since her appointment to the Council in January 2014.
- **Membership Recruitment** - The Council recommended emailing case managers monthly RAC meeting reminders to pass on to families and consumers. The Regional Director's office will request an update from Member Stauffer on her efforts to recruit someone from an urban area. The possibility of establishing a standing, open pupil services representative Council position was discussed. It was noted that the Council's recruitment flyer should be more descriptive.

New Business:

- **Tele/Video Conferencing** - Discussion ensued on teleconferencing and videoconferencing meeting options. DDS has a teleconferencing line that could be used for RAC meetings, in the event of inclement weather. If the library has a speakerphone, members would have the option of calling into meetings when needed. The Regional Director's office will follow-up with the library on the availability of a speaker phone. Video conferencing, available at DDS office sites, is an option as well.
- **Executive Board Elections** - Executive Board elections were made as follows:
 1. Chair – Carol Cooney
 2. Vice Chair – Steve Harney
 3. Secretary – Susan Gardner

In the presence of a quorum, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Council voted to approve the election of Carol Cooney, Steve Harney, and Susan Gardner to the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary respectively, for a term of one year effective this day, September 17, 2014.

- **LEARN Meetings** - The Council discussed attending an upcoming LEARN meeting to raise awareness of its goals and initiatives among school administrators. The RD's office will follow-up with Madeline Illinger, SPED Director Westbrook Public Schools, for a schedule of meetings. **LEARN** is a Regional Educational Service Center working with its member districts (25 towns and

communities) in southeastern/shoreline Connecticut to improve the quality of public education for all learners.

- **Questions for RAC Meeting 9/17/14** - Outgoing Chair Brookman submitted to Thomas Dailey a list of comments and questions gleaned from meetings and conversations with other parents and professionals since last spring. Mr. Dailey will review the information and respond in the coming weeks.
- **Next Meeting Date** - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DDS South Regional Advisory and Planning Council is November 19, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. **Update: The location of the 11/19 RAC meeting is to be determined (no space available at the Clinton Library).**

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jolie Crescimano-Goss

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Executive Secretary

DDS-South Region